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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 NEW DELHI 001546

SIPDIS

STATE FOR INR/B

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/02/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [PINR](#) [MOPS](#) [KNNP](#) [IN](#) [PK](#) [INDO](#) [PAK](#)

SUBJECT: MEA CAUTIOUSLY UPBEAT ON INDO-PAK

REF: A. NEW DELHI 1282

[1](#)B. NEW DELHI 1480

Classified By: PolCouns Geoff Pyatt for Reasons 1.4 (B, D)

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: In a February 28 conversation with PolCouns and Poloff, outgoing MEA Joint Secretary (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran) Arun K S SIPDIS technical agreements that he predicted would be ready for signature then. He added that the time was not yet ripe for redeploying Upbeat on the Indo-Pak Trajectory

[1](#)2. (C) Opening the February 28 discussion with PolCouns and Poloff with macro observations on Indo-Pak relations, J/S Singh was upbeat for Indo-Pak Agenda Remains Ambitious but Realistic

[1](#)3. (C) Turning to official interaction, Singh outlined an ambitious bilateral agenda for the Spring. Dates for technical talks on nuclear

[1](#)4. (C) Sharing his impressions of the "'immensely successful"' trip with Foreign Minister Natwar Singh, Singh described a gradual recognition Keeping PM Visit in the Pocket

[1](#)5. (C) Singh doubted that PM Manmohan Singh would accept Islamabad's invitation to visit in March, explaining that domestic politics would Srinagar Bus to Depart on Time, Others to Follow

[1](#)6. (C) Joking that the permits and logistical details (roads and bridges) necessary for the April 7 inauguration of the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad

[1](#)7. (C) Singh saw no obstacles facing the proposed Amritsar-Lahore-Nankana Sahib bus routes that would cross the international border, and in the interim, two busses might be given special permission to cross the border before the official service begins: one on March 14 for the Cricket: The Best CBM

[1](#)8. (C) The best Indo-Pak CBM is cricket, Singh observed, reporting that three Indian visa officers camped in Lahore's Qaddafi Stadium had a Baglihar: Pak is Wrong, but We Will Respect Decision

[1](#)9. (C) Singh advised that the MEA planned to deliver to the World Bank its response to Pakistan's petition against Baglihar Dam (Ref A) on Islamabad's objections are "'paranoia or political," not technical. When asked by PolCouns why the MEA was not as politically active on this Infiltration Down but Infrastructure Remains

[1](#)10. (C) Turning to the subject of cross-border terrorism, Singh shared with us the GOI assessment that infiltration remained low but there Bio-Note: MEA J/S Dilip Sinha

[1](#)11. (C) J/S (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran) Dilip Sinha assumed his current charge on March 1. Born into an upper-caste Kayashta family in on running MEA's overseas Missions. Sinha was reportedly tipped to replace Navtej Sarna as MEA Spokesman in July 2004, but that promotion fell

-- 1978 Joined Indian Foreign Service

-- 1986-90 First Secretary (Political), Islamabad

-- 1991-95 Director, PMO (Chandra Shekhar/Narasimha Rao governments)

-- late 1990s Posted to UN Mission/Geneva

-- 2001-04 DCM, Dhaka

-- 2004-05 J/S (Establishment)

Comment

[1](#)12. (C) This was Singh's last day Joint Secretary (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran). His replacement, J/S (Establishment) Dilip Sinha, will overlap with him until mid-March and then Singh will prepare for his next post as India's Ambassador in Tel Aviv. Singh served MULFORD